

FALL
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2011

FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR (5) | AROUND SOUTHEASTERN (25) | ALUMNUS HONORS WIFE'S LEGACY (30)

OUTLOOK

THE MAGAZINE OF SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FALL 2011

OUTSIDE

THE WALLS

VOCATION AS MINISTRY

THE SCRIPTURES COME TO LIFE

20/20 COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 3-4, 2012

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TONY MERIDA,

TULLIAN TCHIVIDJIAN

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Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

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Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). Southeastern is an institution of higher learning and a Cooperative Program ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. Support comes through the gifts of the Cooperative Program and the individual friends of the seminary who provide assistance through wills, estates and trusts.

4,166

The number of missionaries,
pastors and other ministry
leaders who have graduated from
Southeastern Seminary since 2000.

EVERY
NUMBER
HAS A STORY



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Letter from the Director

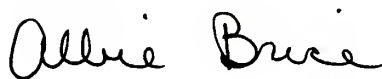
Greetings Alumni and Friends:

This past summer your national, state, and local alumni officers gathered on the campus of Southeastern to discuss, improve, and develop initiatives to assist our alumni as they serve our Lord throughout the world. This two day Alumni Officers Workshop included significant time in prayer and the Scriptures with several of our faculty members. Through much prayer and study of God's Word, the officers overwhelmingly agreed that the focus of the Office of Alumni Development should be the development of healthy alumni networks in all the areas of the world where our alumni are serving—just this year we officially began our first international chapter.

As you read through this edition of the Outlook, I ask that you pause for a moment and pray that the Southeastern family bonds together in the years ahead in a much deeper and meaningful way. I am convinced, as are the members of the alumni board that we, as men and women trained and equipped at Southeastern, need to continue to encourage, and be profitable in each other's ministries. Our knowledge and friendships that were molded inside the stonewall of Southeastern should naturally continue to impact the way we minister beyond the stonewall.

One tangible way to join with Southeastern and your fellow alumni is to become a member of the Southeastern Alumni Association. This is a key way to develop healthy ministry networks and to connect with the seminary that played such an influential role in your formation for ministry. Would you also join with me in praying for a strengthened bond between our alumni? I am praying for you and your families and am thankful for your support of Southeastern. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you. May the Lord continue to bless your work and ministry in His name.

In Christ,



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OUTSIDE

THE WALLS

VOCATION AS MINISTRY

The Great Commission in
Women's Lives / the Classroom
Men's Lives / the Fields

Getting the Gospel on the Ground and Outside the Walls of a Church Building

Carl F. H. Heary was the premiere Baptist theologian of the 20th century. He also possessed a fervent evangelistic and missionary heart. Of all the things he said and taught one statement in particular both challenges and convicts me every day of my life, "The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time." "Gets there!" That phrase implies that the good news of Jesus Christ has somewhere to go. It is to leave one location and move to another. It is not to stay in one place. It is not to stand still and remain confined within the walls of a building. It is the "power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16). However, to believe people must hear. And, for people to hear we must go (Rom 10:14-17). The gospel must "get there!"

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is passionate about "hitting the streets" with the gospel. We are determined to join King Jesus in reclaiming for His glory all that is His, which is EVERYTHING! This happens as we take the good news of His salvation into every corner of this earth.

Words are not adequate to express my thanksgiving for how our students and graduates continue to respond in obedience to our Lord's Great Commission. More and more students are being called to the nations to plant churches that will meet everywhere except in a traditional church building. Some will meet

under Mango trees in Sudan, others in basements in China, and still others in homes just like the first century church.

Then there are those who are invading the underserved and unreached areas of North America. They too meet everywhere except in a traditional church building. And, the odds are they never will.

So, you ask, how do they do it? They do it like our Savior did it: by serving (Mark 10:45). They work in the marketplace like normal people building relationships. They coach football, basketball, baseball and soccer. They work at Starbucks and Wal-Mart. They teach English, hygiene and agriculture. They meet people where they are and love people as they are. But, by God's grace, they do not leave them there. As agents of grace and mercy, they by means of the best news the world has ever heard, move people from darkness to light, from death to life, from hell to heaven. All for a King named Jesus!

The gospel of Jesus Christ is like a wild lion that cannot be tamed or controlled. It will roam the earth gathering an uncountable multitude to worship the Lamb who sits on the throne in heaven. It will not be restricted to the four walls of a building. It is foolish to even try. So join this Lion or get out of the way! He has work to do and He will not be stopped.



Daniel Akin | President

The Great Commission

Story by Michael McEwen
Photos by Kelly Jo

in Women's Lives



"I've lived a very colorful life," she said. Raised by a single, hard-working mom, Amber Lehman, in her early teenage years, began experimenting with sex, alcohol, and drugs. "I drank quite a bit as a teenager, and to take acid or mushrooms was not out of the norm." While also being sexually active, she became pregnant at the age of fifteen.

"I didn't want to be on welfare and I didn't feel like I could bring a child into our already financially strained family, so I chose abortion. I wanted a different life, so I embraced a different story."

After the abortion, Lehman recalls that the same party lifestyle continued. "While attempting to be completely fulfilled in that poisonous life," said Lehman, "I completed all but one class at the 'alternative high school' and my final class through a G.E.D. program."

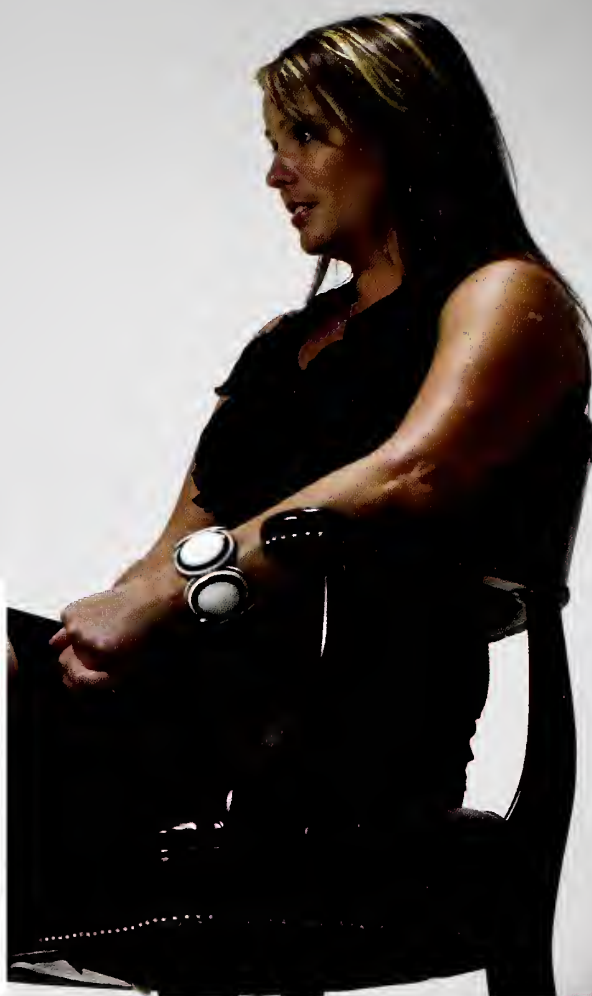
In the next few years of her life, she established her own cleaning business,

which she managed and then added an additional occupation as a 'call-girl.' Catering to wealthier men, Lehman said that she continued succumbing to a life of sex, but this time she was being paid for it.

In September of 1998, Lehman learned that two friends were killed in a boating accident. After the accident, "I was further contemplating the Heaven, Hell and God questions. I began at-

tending a local church, even though nothing really changed in my life." In that same year, Lehman attended a Passion play, where the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ was depicted in tangible form. Looking back at the play experience, she said, "Within a month, the big struggles of my toxic life—as well as the friends who accompanied those things—had disappeared.

"In the early years of attending the



church, I made many friends but no real or deep connections because everyone in church seemed so 'put together' and I knew how 'not together' I was." As a new believer, Lehman remembers when realized that she had taken a human life when she aborted in her teenage years. Later in the week, Lehman showed up at the pastor's office, crying for all that had marked her life before knowing Christ, and she was asking questions and seeking answers for her profound sense of guilt that had been consuming her.

"I completely broke down before him. I began erupting in emotions and I couldn't help but notice that he was smiling the entire time as I spilled everything about my life before him. With great love and a smile, he said, 'Amber, you are becoming a new creation in Christ.'"

He then took Lehman under his wing and plugged her into ministries in the church. "I remember a ministry group that came to our church, and it was during that particular event that I remember 'surrendering to the ministry' so to speak. Some time after, my pastor suggested that I enroll at Southeastern. So after receiving the packet, I looked at the prices and knew that if God really wanted me

to attend this school he would have to send me because—at that time—I couldn't afford it. Shortly after that prayer, my pastor addressed me and said that the church would like to offer me a full scholarship for the first year to attend Southeastern. They used me to guinea pig a scholarship program and paid more than 80% of my undergraduate degree."

While at the College at Southeastern, Lehman received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies with a minor in History of Ideas in 2003. She is also currently finishing her Masters of Arts degree in Ethics.

Due to her God-given passion and 'outgoing personality,' Lehman was encouraged to pursue a career in fundraising by a professional contact. So she applied for a ten-hour-a-week fundraising position at Pregnancy Support Services (PSSWF) of Wake Forest. She eventually interviewed for the Executive Director position at PSSWF, and was unanimously chosen for the position due to her fervor for this cause. In 2010, the position name of Executive Director changed to Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O), and Lehman has served that position ever since.

When asked about what her role entails at PSSWF, she said, "It's whatever hat I have to



wear for the day. I'm not always the C.E.O. Some days, I handle IT troubleshooting or meet with my team to develop strategies and visions for PSSWF. Another aspect of the position entails networking and a lot of it. I meet with donors and supporters, provide personal tours through the clinic itself. I'm frequently attending workshops in order to lead my staff well in their daily work. I also recruit for fundraising or special events. Occasionally, I'll meet with church leaders with the intentions of educating church leaders in the issues surrounding unplanned pregnancy and abortion."

Commenting about PSSWF as a 'marketplace' ministry, she said, "We are reaching women, and their entire families, who are in this crisis of brokenness. This is an aspect of what believers do. And most importantly, by serving them and loving them well we are frequently able to introduce them to a loving and gracious Savior."

Lehman laments the fact that many churches are not well equipped when it comes to engaging pregnant mothers (and families.) Most fail to meet them where they are at any stage in the pregnancy. Pregnancy Support Services of Wake Forest, as a non-profit agency, desires to team up with local churches and

church leaders to educate them in the sensitive, yet vital matters of pregnancy.

Lehman said, "Even if we were robustly funded we could not change the tide of culture concerning abortion because we are not intended to fulfill the mission, the Church is. How the Church addresses the issues of LIFE are of upmost importance but their responses to pregnancy center ministries, and the women and men in crisis are often a 'side-note' of their arms of ministry into the community.

"Honestly," she said, "I would love to see Southern Baptists seminaries and churches embark on more educational services for empowering the non-profit world, like pregnancy support services and other organizations. And for those who are called or doing 'marketplace' ministry, my advice to them would be to seek mentorship in the field of non-profit management itself, as well as seek a bi-weekly pastoral care for the leader him/herself. Quite honestly, leadership is one of the loneliest places you can be, and at the end of the day, ministry is a cause focus, not a sales focus."

For more information about PSSWF, go to PregnancyWF.com



"Southeastern prepared and equipped me to go out and give a defense for Jesus. If you come to SEBTS for the 2+2 program, you'll leave feeling equipped to make disciples of all nations."

Matt Boyd

M. Div., International Church Planting, 2013

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The Great Commission in the Classroom

When Jay Todd began his studies at Southeastern, he knew he would need a Great Commission education to become a Great Commission professor.

A recent doctoral graduate of Southeastern, Todd said, “When I was in college, my pastor and I went out to lunch one time and he said, ‘Have you ever thought about being a college professor?’ I replied, ‘You know what? I had thought about it. I just love teaching the Bible.’” After completing his undergraduate de-

gree at Baptist College of Florida, Todd began exploring options for graduate-level studies. In 2002, after praying through the decision to attend seminary with his wife, Todd began to make preparations to complete his Master’s of Divinity and later, his Doctor of Philosophy, degrees at Southeastern.

Knowing that he was geared toward a Ph.D. with the end goal of teaching in a college setting, Todd began working toward an M.Div. in Advanced Biblical Studies, an aca-

demically-excelled degree at Southeastern. While in the ABS program, he took Old Testament scholar John Sailhamer, who Todd said had a great influence on him and his future field of study. Reflecting on the Old Testament class he took in his third semester, Todd said, “I had no idea who he was, but I took the class, and after that, I knew I’d pursue my Ph.D. in Old Testament.”

As a M.Div. student, Todd said he was prepared in the breadth of the scriptures and ministry while in

the classroom. Because of their own passion for the truthfulness of the scriptures, Southeastern professors teach in a way that is vitally important for sharing the gospel, both in and out of the classroom, Todd said.

When asked about the importance of being “biblically-trained,” he responded, “To be biblically-based as a professor is necessary because of the pervasive secular worldviews in the culture and society. Professors who can take students back to the scriptures are indispensable for forming and teaching them how to love Christ and their neighbors.”

Mentorship is one of the valuable assets that Southeastern professors embrace, especially for those in the doctorate program. Todd agreed about the importance of being mentored while in the academic setting. You can tell professors at Southeastern have a heart for ministry, Todd said. “Ministry is not something merely taught, but rather it is an example permeating all arenas of life, especially the arena in front of the students.

“Those students who are pursuing a career in academia,” Todd remarked, “should have two important objectives in mind: First, they should expect to work hard in the classes, and secondly, I would highly encourage them to be mentored by a specific professor in

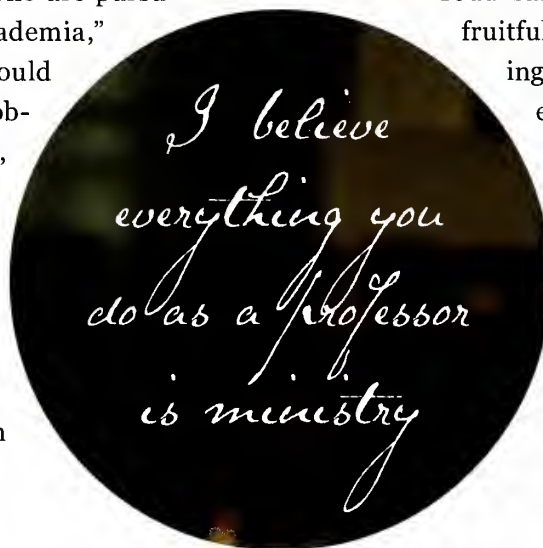
their field of study.” Mentorship, he said, is a vital component to a Great Commission education.

In light of the Great Commission, Southeastern professors, Todd said, emphasize the importance of equipping students to engage the culture for the gospel. “I believe everything you do as a professor is ministry and I plan on continuing to fulfill the Great Commission at the College of the Ozarks.”

Currently at the College of the Ozarks, Todd is serving as an assistant professor of philosophy and religion. He is teaching an Old Testament survey class, as well as three Christian worldview classes, one of the core requirements for college students at the Branson, Mo. school.

Since beginning his teaching position at the Ozarks, Todd and his family have been adjusting to the new position and the new geography. In the classroom, he said that he takes time each week to enjoy lunch with at least one of his students.

Todd said the invaluable and fruitful lessons he learned during his nine years at Southeastern, such as the benefits of mentorship, will shape how he teaches and infuses the Great Commission into the classes he leads as a Southeastern-trained professor.



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The Great Commission in Men's Lives

Story by Michael McFwen, Photos by Courtney Navey

“Early on, sports became the fabric of my heart,” said Michael Thompson as he leaned back in his chair. “The matters of practicing hard and working hard were instilled within me. I was completely subscribed to the glory of trophies and awards.” In his youth Thompson was the usual boy, athletic and active. Being enrolled in sports every year, he found a passion in the realm of sports and sports-related activities.

In high school, Thompson received a collegiate scholarship to play basketball at Central Oklahoma.

“I could definitely perceive that God was in the equation during my latter high school years and in college. But this god was shaped by sports, particularly basketball. Often times I thought of God as nothing more than a hard-nosed coach.

“During those later adolescent years,” Thompson confessed, “I was subscribing to the god of performance found in sports, but eventually I came to see God not as a hard-nosed coach but the God of abundant life.”

After graduating Central Oklahoma, Thompson played for three

years in the organization Athletes in Action. He was thoroughly immersed in this program—a sports ministry whose ministry equips ambassadors of Christ for the Great Commission service. Finishing these three years in AIA, Thompson and his wife served as AIA directors from 1992-2002.

“I was learning from the Lord and avidly teaching his Word,” said Thompson. “But I was seeking more instruction and education. Being citizens of Durham, I had heard through the grapevine of Southeastern Seminary, so I eventually signed



Michael Thompson

up for the counseling track.”

Around 2001-2002, God began moving in Thompson’s life in many ways while he attended Southeastern. These were very intimate encounters with the Lord, he said. “For instance, while in my studies at Southeastern, I remember sitting in the library, cross-referencing, researching, and writing some paper on Romans, I believe. Eventually, I came across this Greek word, *zoweh*, which we translate in English as ‘life.’ Looking back now, I could see that God was preparing me for the ministry of ZOWEH.”

Founded in 2004 by Thompson and his wife Robin, ZOWEH is a discipleship and counseling initiative that is compelled to challenge believers in their faith. “There are many struggling and wounded believers in the Christian faith, and we, at ZOWEH, love being there in the midst of those pains. We like to refer to ourselves as ‘medics.’ These are opportunities to help mend believers in their walk with God, and our ultimate aim is to reveal to those who are hurting, God’s redemptive story.”

As the director of ZOWEH, Thompson’s goal is to focus on those

who are hurting in the “marketplace.” Thompson’s ministry reaches out to meet people where they are, and aides the lost and broken in their businesses, in their homes, and on the streets.

Alongside the marketplace ministry, ZOWEH also initiates a number of spiritual retreats each year. Friends of Thompson since the years of Athletes in Action, Ken Lawson Jr. and Steve Brady—fellow workers of ZOWEH and members of the Board of Directors of ZOWEH—help organize and facilitate these ZOWEH gatherings. Lawson, Brady, and

Thompson assemble sons and fathers as well as friends together from all over the nation with the goal of spiritual counseling and development. These particular events of gathering include pheasant hunting, skeet shooting, fishing events, white-water rafting, and other active events.

Another vital component to ZOWEH is the Wednesday studies where men in the area of Durham gather for weekly devotional studies. Lawson said, "In our weekly Wednesday Bible studies, we try to open men up to God's story and invite them to live in it." Oscillating from Scripture studies to reading Christian books, ZOWEH has established a community that attempts to develop a personal set-

ting where men can gather and grow.

"Intrigue brings them back," said Thompson. "Guys begin talking about their marriages, businesses, and finances. Often times, men have never been asked about their personal lives. So, when I inquire from a businessman about his life, he shares with me for an hour his most intimate stories. And the thing is, he is being counseled without even knowing it."

Alongside of being a director for ZOWEH, Thompson is also an author. His new book, *Search and Rescue: The Life and Love that is Looking for You*, explores and invites the reader to enter into a life where he or she can eat from the Tree of Life. Assuming that the

reader is lost or has been lost in God's story, Thompson attempts to reorient the reader to the Life and Love of the Creator and Redeemer of all things. He writes, "I work with the hearts of men and women, committed to helping them recover their deep hearts so they might live freely. I hear countless stories of what has attacked them, what has attached to them and encumbered their hearts in the search for Life.

"God is inviting us to eat from the Tree of Life," said Thompson. "And that's what we are trying to accomplish at ZOWEH; it's an invitation into the story of God and to eat from the Tree of Life."

For more information on ZOWEH, go to zoweh.org.

Ken Lawson Jr.



Steve Brady





The Great Commission in the Fields

“We get our hands dirty,” said President of Cup of Hope Coffee, Casey Burnett. “We desire to do ministry with the farmers and the local peoples with the long term goal of building sustainable economic communities and the gospel.”

Chiming in on the conversation, Michael Hancock—Treasurer of Cup of Hope Coffee—remarked, “Everything that you are needs to glorify God, and so I went to the Bible to ask the question, ‘What does Scripture say about business and how are we to glorify God in our business?’ Es-

entially, I asked, ‘What is the correlation between theology and business?’”

Cup of Hope Coffee (COHC) has three goals: finance missionaries, plant churches, and help in the fight against social and spiritual poverty. In financing missionaries, COHC gives fifteen percent of its gross revenues to the International Missions Board to help support missionaries on the field. Additionally, COHC partners with Nehemiah Teams as well as the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center with the intention of planting churches to engage un-

reached peoples. Lastly, COHC collaborates with Better Hearing Philippines Incorporated (BHPI) to facilitate long-term community growth and to provide a source of income for these fellow communities.

Both Hancock and Burnett are alumni of Clemson University. Hancock received his degree in Entrepreneurship and Burnett attained his in Agricultural Education. Hancock received his M.Div. in 2009 from Southeastern Seminary and Burnett is currently in the process of finishing his M.Div. Both men pro-

vide a creative collaboration once it comes to ministry, business and agriculture, and through such collaboration, COHC was born.

Burnett, a past journeyman in China and a fellow community developer in the Himalayas, said, "A part of the COHC first came to me when I was working on a water project that helped livelihood for the local community. I saw COHC in those fields, so the aim then is to promote a fully self-sustainable community that is permeated with the gospel."

Reminiscing of their concerted work, Hancock said, "Casey and I met in seminary where we collaborated as to how we could aid overworked pastors who were unable to do ministry as much as they should have been. At the end of the day, you are to serve the Lord with your heart, so we wanted to establish a business with its goals and missions that will outlive you and me."

Hancock said that COHC is not a company that wants donated monies, but rather COHC redirects the donations to go directly to the IMB. For right now, the coffee is sold wholesale locally in America. "The goal is to communicate to the church what we're doing: connecting churches directly to communities for holistic impact," said Burnett.

Leaning over the table in a dire and pastoral intonation, Burnett continued, "When you enter into a foreign or developing country and see their ways of doing business, we must live out Proverbs where the author says, 'The Lord tests the use of dishonest scales.' We as representatives of Christ set ourselves apart from all other agricultural companies by using honest scales before the community we live among." In the serious, yet loving tone of Burnett, there is the hope of being used as vessels of God to establish and build growing communities, firstly in the gospel, and secondly, in economic and physical terms.

The people Hancock and Burnett want to utilize most are the very ones who serve the church every week. "At the end of the day, we can use you who are in the pews," remarked Hancock in an invitation

manner. "In essence then the vision at COHC is to connect churches, spread the message, and connecting business leaders to villages overseas."

In other words, "Our first goal," said Hancock, "is ministry and our second is financial. It is a mission of expanding God's kingdom through his own people. Our God wants to use our skills in real and practical ways in his name."

In light of their financial aide for missionaries working with the IMB, Hancock responded, "An aspect of our weekly work is to look at government resources, partnering with foreign and local businesses, working alongside missionaries, and catalyzing long-term economic sustainability. We do not want to be a burden on the IMB, but to help bear the burden in supporting missionaries either going onto or presently on the field."

Burnett reminisced about a time with his father when the early stages of COHC were in the making. He recollected, "We were standing near a building and my father said, 'Do you see those bricks? Bricks are like money.

You can build a house with it, a church with it, or a prison with it. It's just a brick. But what matters before the Lord is what we do with our 'bricks.'"

"It's the people in the community who sustain the business itself," said Hancock. At the end of the day, he continued, the capital investor, the local people, and the entrepreneurs have a hand in the COHC business. Joining into the discussion, Burnett added that his dad has had a business for some thirty years, and his business has 'succeeded' because of his devoted relationships with his customers. This is one of the desires for COHC both Hancock and Burnett voiced.

In closing the interview, Burnett, speaking from the heart, said, "We want to do great things for the Lord through Cup of Hope Coffee."

For more information on Cup of Hope Coffee, go to cupofhopecoffee.org.



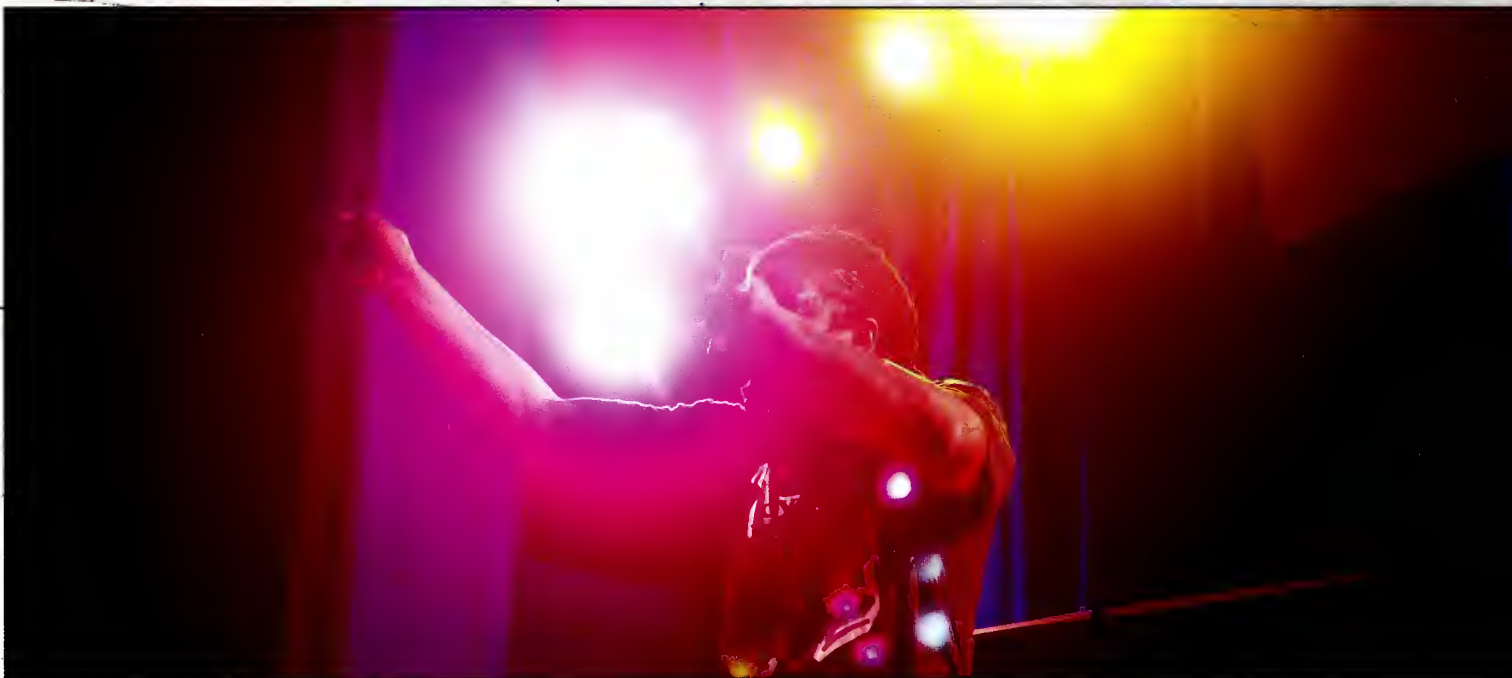


Hancock and Burnett



Left to Right: Jessica, Michael, and Max Hancock, Casey and Judith Burnett

Events from Around Southeastern



Top Left: Southeastern's first ever Homecoming cookout.

Top Right: Southeastern Classic Winners, Traynor Reitmeier, Korky Kemp, and Brandon Detweiler. Not pictured, Johnny Evans.

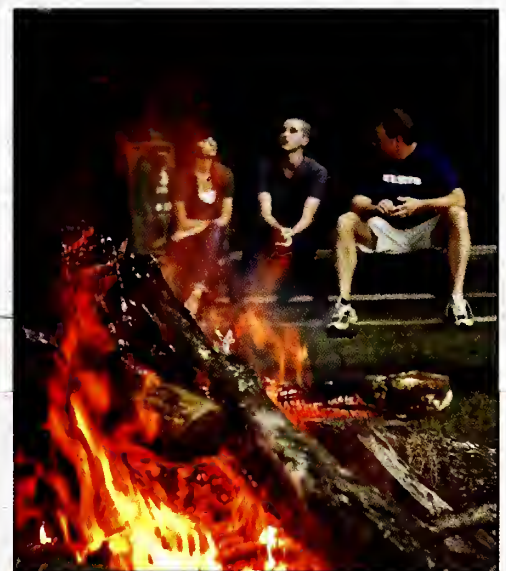
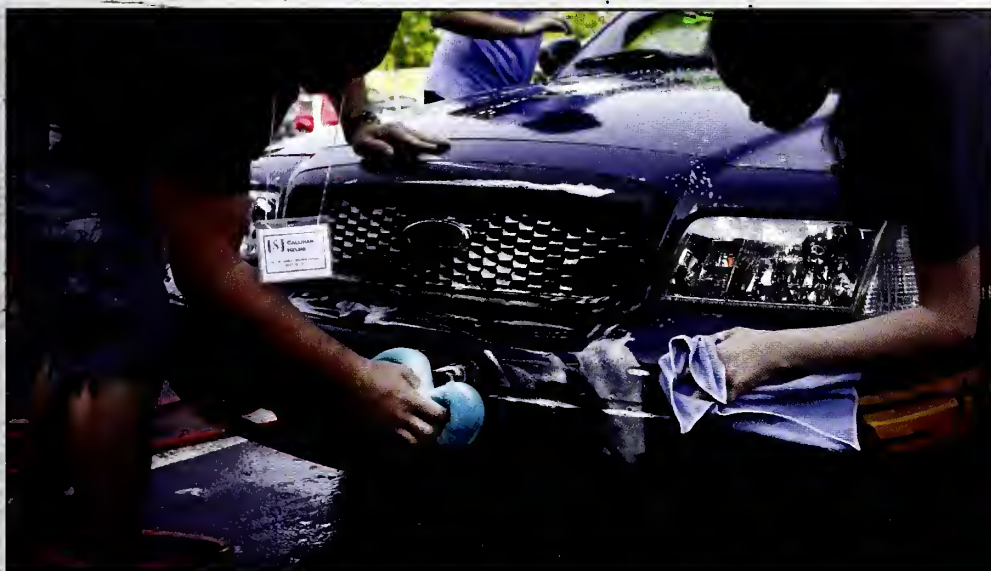
Center: Shai Linné gave a free concert in Binkley Chapel on September 24th.

Left: 189 students graduated in the Spring, going out to fulfill the Great Commission.



WELCOME, STUDENTS!

During the month of August, incoming freshmen in the College at Southeastern took part in the College's first-ever Welcome Week. The week included activities ranging from community services to recreational events. These activities initiated a hospitable environment where new students could meet one another, and additionally, it assisted them in a smooth transition into a new context.





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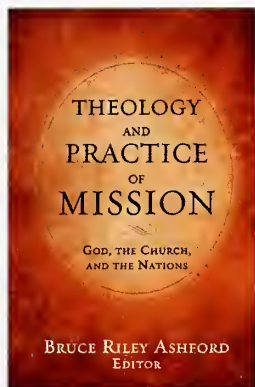
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Around Southeastern

BRIEFS AND NEWS FROM CAMPUS, CHAPEL AND ALUMNI EVENTS



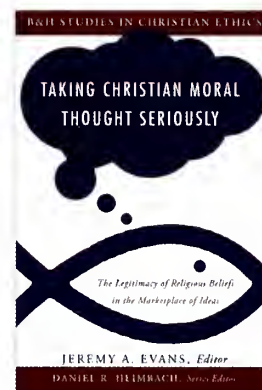
Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations

Bruce Ashford, Associate Professor of Theology and Culture, Dean of the College at Southeastern, and Fellow for the Bush Center for Faith and Culture, is the editor of *Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*. *Theology and Practice of Mission* seeks to provide a biblical-theological framework for understanding the church's mission to the nations. Toward this end, the book is divided into four parts: God's Mission, the Church's Mission, the Church's Mission to the Nations, and Concluding Challenges.

One notable feature of the book is the unique authorship of the chapters. Several of the contributors are professors, several of them are pastors in the United States, but the majority of the chapters are written by North American or International church planters. The chapters are penned by men and women whose ministry contexts vary geographically, including authors who serve or have served in the United States, South America, North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, the Pacific Rim, and Sub-Saharan Africa. All of them, however, share the conviction that our mission must be driven by Christian Scripture and sound theology, and that theology disconnected from mission is not Christian theology at all.

Taking Christian Moral Thought Seriously: The Legitimacy of Religious Beliefs in the Marketplace of Ideas

Daniel Heimbach, Senior Professor of Christian Ethics at Southeastern and Jeremy Evans, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Southeastern, are, respectively, Series Editor and Editor of *Taking Christian Moral Thought Seriously: The Legitimacy of Religious Beliefs in the Marketplace of Ideas*. In this edition of B&H Studies in Christian Ethics, a number of authors discuss issues ranging from Pluralism, the Death Penalty, Toleration, Religious Disagreement, Philosophy of Science, Abortion, and Creation Care. Hence, a number of topics are explicitly moral. Evans, in his introduction, states, "Failing to take seriously well-prepared ideas in science, politics, and education shirks our intellectual obligations, even undermines the very idea that we are seeking the truth. This shirking has taken place both among persons of faith and in the secular academy. Given these concerns, we seek to offer cogent insights into a small but important range of issues. We do hope that what we provide will foster fruitful discussion and solidify (even in disagreement) the reasonableness of the Christian worldview."



Southeastern Theological Review



This particular journal edition focuses in large part upon the central place of mission in Christian Identity. The first two essays are derivative of a dialogue with Dr. Michael Goheen and his recent publication, *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story*. After the dialogue, Dr. Bruce Ashford of Southeastern Seminary provides an extensive and critical review of *A Light to the Nations*. The third essay is written by Dr. Jason Hood of Christ United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. In keeping with the theme of the first two essays, Dr. Hood explores the theme of Paul's emphasis upon collection for the poor and how this relates to Christian mission. In his analysis, the reader will discover marks of faithful discipleship as advocated in the New Testament.

The final two essays diverge from the theme of mission, and rather illumine the area of biblical hermeneutics. Dr. Richard Briggs of Cranmer Hall at Durham University (UK) explores what it means to talk about the "meaning" of biblical texts. Utilizing the work of J. L. Austin, Richard suggests that meaning is an important focus for biblical interpretation, but it reveals its importance in a localized way rather than in overly-developed and global theories of biblical meaning. Finally, keeping pace with the emphasis upon hermeneutics, Dr. Robert Cole of Southeastern Seminary explores how Isaiah 6 fits within its immediate literary context, carrying with it eschatological overtures. This is a literary and contextual reading that diverges from other historical-critical approaches to the same text. So mission, discipleship and hermeneutics comprise the essential themes addressed in this edition of *STR*, and the editorial board prays that it will be a stimulating and challenging read.

For more of the *STR*, go to southeasterntheologicalreview.com

Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees Participate in Homecoming at Southeastern

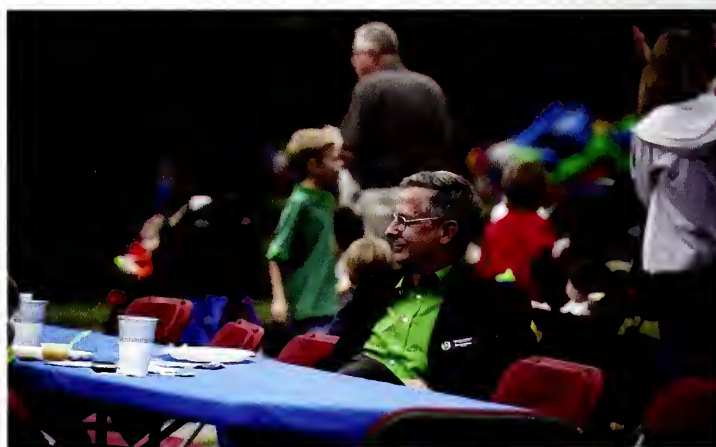
The Board of Visitors and Trustees arrived October 9 for a three-day event that involved serving, voting, and maintaining the present and future economy of Southeastern.

Beginning the Fall 2011 Board of Visitors Meeting, Kenny Getz welcomed the Visitors from the context of Eitel Missions Auditorium. Opening the day in prayer then moving into the presidential address and departmental reports, Daniel Akin summarized the events of Southeastern for the past six months. He touched on the topics of Southeastern's mission trips, the representation of Southeastern at the past Southern Baptist Convention, as well as the current enrollment of the school, Akin said, "The prediction some fifteen to twenty years ago was that Southeastern would not survive, and looking at the numbers today, that prediction was severely flawed. The current enrollment of 2,800 students proves otherwise."

During their business session the Board of Trustees officially promoted Dr. Sam Williams to Professor of Counseling. Williams, who received his B.S. from the University of Arizona and his M.A. and Ph.D. from California School of Professional Psychology, has been teaching at Southeastern since 2000.

Addressing future expansion and renovation plans at Southeastern, Ryan Hutchinson—Senior Vice President for Business Administration—articulated to the Boards the current hopes for building a more efficient, more welcoming campus. Hutchinson communicated about a future welcome center, renovations of Stealey and Appleby Halls, and additional constructions on the campus library. "These projects," said Hutchinson, "are what we hope to accomplish and our prayer is to be wise financial stewards so that we may bring in more students to minister to all peoples."

After offering much prayer and time in business sessions and a little informal leisure-time at the first-ever Homecoming, the Board of Visitors and Trustees sponsored and defended the hopes of Southeastern, which included helping finance future architectural and missional goals.





9Marks at Southeastern

Daniel Akin welcomed the 700 plus men and women attending the third year of the 9Marks at Southeastern conference. "Many people ask," Akin commenced, "how this conference came about at Southeastern. Quite honestly, we are very interested in serving the church, especially training those in our seminaries and churches to take part in this great blessing. In essence, then, 9Marks and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary share the same mission."

This year's conference theme was "The Gospel." The 9Marks Conference speakers each addressed the multifaceted nature of the gospel. Throughout the six sessions over two days, speakers Daniel Akin, Thabiti Anyabwile, Mark Dever, James MacDonald, and Ben Mandrell articulated the power and grandeur of the gospel, each drawing from a number of books, epistles, and psalms from the Bible.

After two days of delving into the depths of the Scriptures and providing profound wisdom through their years in ministry, each of 9Marks speakers left the attendees with the command: "Go and do likewise throughout the earth."

Photos and video available online at sebts.edu/9marks.



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Daniel Akin on Racial Bigotry in SBC Churches

On October 11, Daniel Akin preached to those in the pews at Binkley Chapel, and from the opening words of his message, the attendees quickly knew that Akin's message was going to be sharp for his hearers.

"Southern Baptists are an interesting and fascinating people. I think most people who know us would agree whether they are in the family or not! Like most of our Christian brothers and sisters we thrive on controversy and are very hesitant to run from a fight!," commenced Akin.

Drawing his message from Mark 11:25, Akin reminded his hearers of Jesus' admonition against those who fail to be fruitful in ministry work. "Fruitlessness now," Akin said, "may result in fruitlessness forever. Lose your usefulness for Jesus and He may curse you and move on! After all, it is not He who needs us."

He said, "As of this moment 'the SBC remains a mostly middle-class, mostly white network of mostly declining churches in the southern United States of America.' Those are the undeniable facts and that must change or we will die." Akin noted that the serious problem is seen not only in southern states but pervasive in all Southern Baptist churches across America. Explicit and implicit in most churches, especially in the

Southern Baptist realm, is the racial bigotry, Akin said.

Reading from verse seventeen from Mark's Gospel, Akin said that Jesus cursed those who turned God's Temple into a "den of robbers" and a "hive of spiritual thieves" for their own religious advancement.

Akin said, "All wickedness is an abomination to our Lord. But religious wickedness in His name, He finds it especially detestable. And He will deal with it. You can count on that!"

What Southern Baptists especially need, Akin urged, is a heart change. "We need an inward transformation that will result in an outward transformation that will result in our churches on earth looking more like the Church in heaven!"

Can you imagine, Akin inquired, if Southern Baptists heralded in word and deed a Savior who is for all Nations? What if Southern Baptists were exclaiming, "Come on in! All are welcomed! And none will be turned away!"

Concluding his assertive message, Akin inquired from those in chapel if they or Southern Baptists at large are barren fig trees. He said, "Will we pay any price necessary that all the nations might hear of King Jesus? Time only will tell."



9Marks at Southeastern

a conference about the church, for the church

Danny Akin | Thabiti Anyabwile | Alistair Begg | Matt Chandler | Mark Dever | David Platt

Conversion

September 28-29, 2012

sebts.edu/9marks

Alumnus Honors Wife's Legacy with Missions Scholarship

By Michael McEwen



Rick Butterworth and wife, Debra, in Hospice unit in Pheonix, AZ, August 2010.

For more than two decades, Rick Butterworth—class of 1987—received letters from Southeastern urging him to invest in the work of equipping the next generation of students for ministry. “For years, I nearly always threw them away,” he said. “Like most pastors, my salary was very low in the early days of my ministry, and Debra and I worked hard to afford seminary just like today’s students.”

Over time, however, factors converged which gave Rick a new perspective on the requests for help from alumni. Although Rick and his wife Debra were unable to serve overseas, she had a deep passion for international missions. As Southeastern began to train more students for international church planting, Debra took note.

When Debra was diagnosed with breast cancer ten years ago, Rick had just accepted a new pastorate. As questions flooded their minds

as to how the church would respond, the church embraced them.

Through the good and the not-so-good times, Rick and Debra began discussing their time together at Southeastern—the friendships and the tremendous, life-long value of formal training for ministry.

Opening letters from Southeastern, Rick and Debra began talking about helping students in training to reach the unreached peoples of the world. Rick realized the Cooperative Program was not providing the support that it did when he was a student. So he began rethinking and praying about what they could do.

Last year, Debra’s battle against breast cancer ended. However, her legacy and passion for the nations will endure until Christ returns. Earlier this year, Rick opened a Southeastern letter and then wrote a check to start an endowment in honor and memory of Debra H. Butterworth—mom to three sons, provider for the family during seminary, and champion for the cause of missions in their local church.

This fall, a particular student enrolled in Southeastern’s 2+2 or 2+3 international missions program will receive a scholarship from the Debra H. Butterworth Missions Aid Fund. Because of Debra’s desire for international missions, this specific student—once graduated—will arrive on the mission field, fully trained, equipped, and going in Christ’s name; and such a future missionary will be there, in part, because an alumnus read his “junk mail.”

To make a gift in memory of
Debra H. Butterworth,
please contact Daniel Palmer,
Director of Financial Development,
at dpalmer@sebs.edu or
(919) 761-2352.

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Southeastern receives gifts of cash both through the mail and online at www.sebts.edu/alumni/giving. Cash gifts may be given with a check, credit/debit card, and even with a good ole' fashioned greenback. Gifts postmarked by December 31 are tax-deductible in 2011.

BEQUESTS

Include SEBTS as a named beneficiary in your Will and make an impact for the gospel even in death. Often someone's last gift is their largest and most impactful gift. Everyone including SEBTS in their Will qualifies for membership in the Timothy Society. Call 919.761.2352

SECURITIES

Give stocks that have increased significantly in value, particularly those producing a low yield. If you have owned them longer than one year, you will pay no capital gains on the stock you transfer to Southeastern, and you can deduct the full, fair-market value of the stock on your income taxes.

ACCOUNTS

Name Southeastern the "payable-on-death beneficiary" of your bank accounts or certificates of deposit. You own and enjoy the assets for your lifetime. Upon your death, the assets pass directly to Southeastern without going through probate.

LIFE ESTATE

Did you know that you can give your home to SEBTS and still live in it? You may transfer the deed of your personal residence/farm to SEBTS now and keep the right to live in and use the property for your lifetime. You will receive a current charitable deduction based on your life expectancy and the current value of the property.

REAL ESTATE

If you own a property that is not mortgaged, has appreciated value, and you no longer need/use it, this is a gift that could make a tremendous impact and offers significant tax advantages. If you give property to SEBTS, you can deduct the fair market value of your gift and avoid all capital gains taxes.

INSURANCE

Rather than cancelling existing life insurance policies you no longer need, you could name Southeastern as a beneficiary or simply donate the life insurance policies outright. For more information on tax implications please contact us.

LEAD TRUST

A Charitable Lead Trust pays income to Southeastern for a period of time after which the remaining trust assets pass to family members. This is a great way to allow Southeastern to benefit from assets now while allowing grandchildren to benefit from the assets later.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS

Life income gifts, including Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Trusts, are great ways to make a gift without reducing one's income. With a life income gift, a donor is able to make a sizable gift, receive a significant tax deduction, and continue receiving income from their donated asset for the remainder of their life.

RETIREMENT ASSETS

The wisest estate-planning option often involves leveraging the assets you have accumulated in a retirement plan. Tax laws often subject these assets to income and estate taxes upon death which can often be avoided by giving retirement assets and passing along more tax-favored assets to one's family.



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